



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: Verdell Thornton

Examiner: THOMAS, DAVID B

Art Unit: 3723

Title: AUTOMATED PILL BOTTLE OPENER

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

The following is in response to the Office Action dated 09/20/2004:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1 1. (Original) An automated bottle opener comprising:
 - 2 a casing with a receiving area to receive a bottle,
 - 3 a plunger assembly to apply downward pressure on a top of a bottle cap of said
 - 4 bottle, and
 - 5 a rotator assembly to rotate said bottle cap; wherein
 - 6 said casing comprises a means to secure a bottom of said bottle, and
 - 7 said rotator assembly comprises a means to secure said top of said bottle cap; such
 - 8 that
 - 9 during an opening process initiated by a user moving a selector in a first direction, a
 - 10 body of said bottle is prevented from rotating, and said rotator assembly rotates said bottle
 - 11 cap while said plunger assembly simultaneously applies pressure to said top of said bottle
 - 12 cap, thereby removing said bottle cap from said bottle, and

13 during a closing process, a direction of rotation of said rotator assembly is reversed
14 by moving said selector in a second direction, such that said bottle cap is replaced onto
15 said bottle.

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1 2. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 1 wherein:
2 motive power is supplied to said bottle opener by an electric motor in communication
3 with said plunger assembly by means of a gear drive.

1 3. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 2 wherein:
2 said plunger assembly comprises a means to prevent said plunger from rotating
3 relative to said casing.

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1 4. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 1 wherein:
2 said plunger assembly comprises a means to prevent said plunger from rotating
3 relative to said casing.

1 5. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 1 wherein:
2 when said plunger assembly reaches limit of a downward travel path, a central shaft
3 is pushed upward, and when upward pressure overcomes an overload spring, a reverse
4 switch is triggered, thereby reversing direction of rotation of said rotator assembly.

1 6. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 1 wherein:
2 said rotator assembly comprises a rotator body with a pair of V-shaped cutouts

3 therein; and
4 tracking elements of said plunger assembly traverse said V-shaped cutouts to define
5 a stroke of said plunger, said tracking elements causing upward pressure on a drive shaft
6 of said plunger assembly when said tracking elements reach a bottom of said V-shaped
7 cutouts.

1 7. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 1 wherein:
2 said plunger assembly is in communication with said rotator assembly through a
3 rotator spring, such that said rotator spring is compressed after an upper gripping surface
4 of said rotator contacts a top surface of said bottle cap, thereby enabling said plunger to
5 continue to exert downward pressure on said bottle cap while said rotator assembly rotates
6 said bottle cap.